THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Initial permission granted to December, 1983 was for a period of one year subject to certain terms and conditions. Request for extending the period of occupation was considered and authorised upto 24-2-85 to enable M/s. Escorts to make arrangements to vacate the area. Notice for vacating the site by 15th May, 1986 was issued on 8-4-86. Programme for shifting dry dock after completion of 1986 monsoon was submitted by M/s. Escorts and considering steps initiated and assurance given by M/s. Escorts they were allowed to continue. The floating dry dock has since been moved out of NSPT water limits on 23rd October, 1986 and shifted to temporary site allotted in BPT waters.

(c) Continuation of floating dry dock in temporary location would have affected capital dredging.

Medicine for AIDS Victims

174. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of AIDS cases detected so far during the last three months in India and the number of persons who died of this disease; and

(b) what efforts are being made to develop an effective medicine for AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) During August, September and October (upto 15th October 1986) no cases of AIDS have been detected. Before the end of July 1986 only 2 cases of AIDS were reported. One succumbed to the disease on 9th June, 1986 and the second succumbed to the disease on 8th August, 1986.

(b) Ever since identification of HIV several anti-viral drugs including suramin, HDA 23, Ribavirin Azidothymidine and foscarnet are under clinical trial for treatment of AIDS diseases. Some of these drugs are viricidal, but so far none of the cases of AIDS have been cured of the disease by use of any of these drugs. Azidothymidine shows a promising results in AIDS cases with Pneumocystis cerinii pneumonia.

Drugs for correction of the immune deficiency seen in AIDS patients are also being evaluated. These include bone marrow transplantation, use of immuno-stimulators like interleukin 2, gamma interferon and thymic hormones and passive immunisation with hyper immuno gamma globolin. None of these have also been effective in curing the immune deficiency. However it is expected that the effective drugs to combat the disease would become available through global research activity.

Cultural festival in Delhi

175. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to celebrate a cultural festival in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the amount allocated for the same;

(c) what is the number of cultural festivals of India that have so far been celebrated in foreign countries; and

(d) what was the allocation made and the expenses incurred for conducting those festivals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Cultural Festival will be held in Delhi ni November, 1986.

(b) The amount allocated for the Festival is Rs. 4.90 crore.

(c) Three Festivals of India have been held so far.

(d) On the basis of the allocation made to the different Ministries/Departments an expenditure of Rs. 12,51,76,213/- has been incurred upto 31st March, 1986 on these Festivals of India held in U.K., France and U.S.A.

Transfer of 'Education' from Concurrent to State List

176. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the unanimous resolution adopted at the Conference of the Education Minister's of Non-Congress (I) ruled States asking the Centre to amend the Constitution so as to transfer the subject education from the Concurrent list to the State list; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have no proposal at present to revert 'Education' to State List.

Air Fare of Gulf-Trivandrum Route

177. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation recently from residents of Kerala to reduce the air fare on Gulf-Trivandrum route; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHR JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was taken up at the International Air Transport Association forum. The proposal was, however, not accepted by various member airlines on commercial considerations.

Computerised reservation at Railway Stations

178. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centres in Indian Railway which have been provided with computers for reservation of tickets; and

(b) the number of employees affected due to the introduction of computer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) One on Northern Railway at New Delhi.

(b) No reservation and booking clerks have been rendered surplus. Some typists engaged in manual preparation of reservation charts are likely to be absorbed elsewhere.

Central schemes to reduce drop out in schools

179. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes evolved by the Central Government to reduce the dropout rate in primary and upper primary levels and to raise the standard of education at the school level; and